

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 01760 151021Z

42

ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 ABF-01 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 HEW-02 HUD-01 INR-07

INT-05 LOC-01 NASA-01 NSAE-00 NSF-01 OMB-01 SMI-01

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2168

CONFIDENTIAL CAIRO 1760

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TPHY OSCIEG US

SUBJECT: FY 75 SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY FUND SCIENTIFIC GRANT

PROGRAM FOR EGYPT

REF: CAIRO 910 (1974)

1. IN FEBRUARY WE RAISED CEILING FOR FY 76 SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY FUND GRANT SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS IN EGYPT TO FIVE MILLION DOLLARS. ELIGIBLE WASHINGTON AGENCIES MET IN MARCH TO ASSIGN PRIORITIES TO FIVE MILLION DOLLAR FY 75 PROGRAM. WE SUBSEQUENTLY PRESENTED GOE WITH FY 75 PROGRAM, WHICH WAS APPROVED IN LATE AUGUST 1974. THERE WERE OVER 80 NEW PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR FY75. AS OF JANUARY 31 WE HAVE RECORD OF THE COMPLETION OF ONLY SIX NEW GRANTS WHICH WERE APPROVED FOR FY 75 PROGRAM FROM ALL AGENCIES. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THERE WILL BE ACTIVITY IN THE LATTER PART OF FISCAL YEAR AS OBLIGATION CUT OFFS COME DUE. THIS DISAPPOINTINGLY SLOW PERFORMANCE SUGGESTS LACK OF PREPAREDNESS ON PART OF WASHINGTON AGENCIES TO CARRY OUT PROGRAMS AND PERHAPS LACK OF ATTENTION TO PROGRAMS IN EGYPT.

2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPAT POLLING AGENCIES INVOLVED

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 01760 151021Z

REGARDING THEIR INTENTIONS AND EXPECTATION FOR COMPLETION

OF PLANNED GRANTS. DEPT MIGHT POINT OUT TO THESE AGENCIES THAT SUBSTITUTION OF PROJECTS MUST HAVE FOREIGN MINISTR CLEARANCE, WHICH CAN TAKE SEVERALWEEKS. IN CASE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, IOP CHIEF FOR EGYPT PRESENTED US LAST WEEK WITH CONSIDERABLY ALTERED NSF PROGRAM AND ASKED US TO OBTAIN EXPEDITIUS APPROVAL IN LIGHT OF NSF MARCH 31 BUDGET OBLIGATION DEADLINE. IF OTHER AGENCIES ARE PLANNING MAJOR CHANGES WE SHULD BE INFORMED IN ORDER NOT TOCAUSE LAST MINUTE CRISIS.

3. WE EXPRESS CONCERNS ABOVE BECAUSE OF NECESSITY TO MAKE DECISION ON FY 76 PROGRAM SOON. WE BELIEVE PROGRAM IS OF CONSIDERABLE MUTUAL VALUE AND SHOULD BE PURSUED WITH ALL VIGOR. WE HAVE MISGIVINGS, HOWEVER, BASED ON PERFORMANCE THIS YEAR, THAT AGENCIES CAN BUDGET AND CARRY OUT ANOTHER GRANT PROGRAM FOR FY 76 EQUAL TO THAT OF FY 75.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: SUGGEST DEPT CALLMEETING OF SFCP COORDINATORS INVOLVED IN NEAR FUTURE TO DISCUSS MATTERS RAISED ABOVE AND ADVISE PROSPECTS FOR FY 76 PROGRAM.
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